

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, CH

SUBJECT: HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS VICINITY ROC

1. IN ORDER TO SATISFY CIVILIAN NAUTICAL AND MILITARY CHARTING REQUIREMENTS THE US NAVY DESIRES TO CONDUCT HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN THE BASHI CHANNEL COMMENCING ABOUT NOVEMBER 1975 FOR ABOUT 6 MONTHS. THESE SURVEYS WILL NOT INCLUDE ANY AREAS OF THE TAIWAN STRAIT NOR WILL THEY BE CONDUCTED WITHIN 240 MILES OF THE PRC IN THE BASHI CHANNEL. WHILE SURVEYS WILL BE PRIMARILY CHARTING, SOME OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEYS ARE ALSO PLANNED. THE RESULTING NAUTICAL CHART AND OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO THE US AND HOPEFULLY TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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2. USNS CHAUVENET (T-AGS 29), A COASTAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP OPERATED BY MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND AND

UNDER THE TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE, WOULD CONDUCT THE SURVEYS. PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CHINESE NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC AND METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE IS WELCOME. THE CHAUVENET IS CIVIL SERVICE CREWED, WITH A MILITARY DETACHMENT THAT CONDUCTS THE ACTUAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY. CHAUVENET WHICH CARRIES FOUR SOUNDING LAUNCHES AND A HELICOPTER, IS AN UNARMED

WHITE HULLED SHIP.

3. LAND USE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF SHORE SITES WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE POSITIONING OF ELECTRONIC AIDS AND A SMALL ADVANCE PARTY WILL PROBABLY BE REQUIRED TO GO TO THE INITIAL SURVEY AREA TO SELECT APPROPRIATE SITES. USE OF ELECTRONIC POSITIONING AIDS WILL REQUIRE SEPARATE FREQUENCY CLEARANCE. GEODETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITIONING OF THE NAVIGATION AIDS WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE CHINESE NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC AND METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

4. PORT VISITS BY CHAUVENET WOULD BE TO VARIOUS REPUBLIC OF CHINA PORTS FOR LOGISTICS AND RECREATION.

5. RESULTS OF SURVEY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA EITHER AS RAW DATA OR FINISHED CHARTS OR BOTH. PERSONNEL OF THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL CONCERNING ALL ASPECTS OF THE SURVEY.

6. REQUEST YOU APPROACH ROC WITH THIS PROPOSAL AND REQUEST DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1975 TO REMAIN VALID FOR SIX MONTHS. SUGGEST STRESS NON-MILITARY NATURE OF SHIPS AND BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF SURVEY.

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